

before and has been previously approved. We have no objection to proceeding as suggested by the Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 2388) was agreed to.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. COCHRAN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. BINGAMAN. I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington is recognized.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SECOND HIGHER EDUCATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2007

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. 1868 introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1868) to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 1868

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Second Higher Education Extension Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF PROGRAMS.

Section 2(a) of the Higher Education Extension Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-81; 20 U.S.C. 1001 note) is amended by striking "July 31, 2007" and inserting "October 31, 2007".

SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act, or in the Higher Education Extension Act of 2005 as amended by this Act, shall be construed to limit or otherwise alter the authorizations of appropriations for, or the durations of, programs contained in the amendments made by the Higher Education Reconciliation Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-171) to the provisions of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and the Taxpayer-Teacher Protection Act of 2004.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have spoken to the two managers, Senators BYRD and COCHRAN. We have done some work this afternoon. We are getting a feel of the legislation. Senator CANTWELL has an amendment she will offer at the appropriate time. Maybe it can be worked out with the managers. If it cannot, we certainly are not going to be able to debate it all tonight. We are working on the warrior legislation. If we decide to finish that tonight, that will be done by unanimous consent and won't require a rollcall vote. At least it won't require one tonight. So I think that with a number of balls being up in the air—and we are waiting for other Senators to come and offer amendments—we will have no more rollcall votes tonight.

I suggest, though, that Senators should understand that tomorrow is Wednesday and we really need to finish this bill. I hope Senators who have amendments to offer will do that. I checked with the managers, and I have spoken with Senator COCHRAN. Tomorrow, if we are in a period where there are no amendments being offered, we will move to third reading. If people want to improve this bill in any way that they feel appropriate, the way to do it is to come and offer an amendment.

I have said today—and I say it again—I don't want to file cloture on the bill. I think it would set a pattern for how we need to work on appropriations bills. Let's get this done in the regular order. In fact, I said earlier today—and I will say it again—I have spoken to the President's Chief of Staff about appropriations bills generally. My feeling is that we will be happy to sit down and talk to the President's people about an overall program to get these bills passed. In the meantime, let's do them one at a time. The power of the White House, whether it is a Democratic or a Republican President, comes when we have the conference, anyway.

Again, I hope we can work within the regular order to get this passed. I notify all Senate offices that there will be no more rollcall votes tonight.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MENENDEZ). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WOUNDED WARRIOR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we have not been able to clear the Wounded Warrior legislation. It is my understanding the minority is looking at that again tonight. Hopefully, we can get it done tomorrow.

When I come in in the morning, when the Senate convenes, I am going to ask consent again to pass that. This is one of the opportunities we have to really do something for the troops. The Defense authorization bill, the other stuff in it, doesn't become effective until the beginning of the fiscal year, October 1, but this, Wounded Warrior, becomes effective upon passage and approval, so it would really be good if we could do that sooner rather than later. As soon as we complete it here, we will be that much closer to being able to get that to the President. The House can do it very quickly.

I was meeting with the Speaker this afternoon. It is amazing what they can do in just a short period of time. I went over my list of things I wanted to complete for the Senate this next couple of weeks: This appropriations bill we are working on now, SCHIP, the conference report on ethics, and then the one on 9/11.

She had two pages of things they were going to do in the next couple of weeks. We can't do that here but she can. That is when you realize the difference between the House and the Senate.

EDUCATION AND THE MINIMUM WAGE

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, during the last year I have listened to a lot of things Ohioans have said, have told me, as I have traveled from Cleveland to Portsmouth, and from Toledo to Cincinnati and from Youngstown to Lima and Bryan. I have heard repeatedly, particularly middle class and working families talk about lost opportunity, that they do not have the same opportunity for wage increases, do not have the same opportunity to join a union, do not have the same opportunity to send their kids to college.